



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

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News & Articles

Additional Forensic Investigation of 2001 Anthrax Attacks

The FBI's conclusion that USAMRIID scientist Dr. Bruce Ivins perpetrated the anthrax attacks of 2001 is largely built on an extensive microbial forensics investigation. That investigation linked the spores found in recovered letters to material contained in a flask labeled "RMR-1029" that was under Dr. Ivins' control. The 2011 National Academy of Sciences report evaluating the FBI's scientific conclusions in the Amerithrax case cited, "it is not possible to reach a definitive conclusion about the origin of the B. anthracis in the mailings based on the available scientific evidence alone." [MORE>>](#)

New Funding Opportunity: Climate and Health Issues

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced a new four year funding opportunity for state, territorial and tribal health agencies to work on climate and health issues. The purpose of the funding opportunity is to address the public health consequences of climate change and its implications on human health. The program will utilize a public health framework (BRACE) that will forecast climate trends, define disease burden, develop specific intervention methods, and evaluate impacts of change for at-risk populations within domestic geographic areas. To view the FOA visit <http://www.grants.gov/search/basic.do> and enter CDC-RFA-EH12-1202 into the box titled "Search by Funding Opportunity Number". The closing date for applications is June 18, 2012.

Internet Regulation Resources Outlined in Report for Congress

This report provides links to selected authoritative resources related to cybersecurity issues. The resources were produced by government agencies, academic institutions, think tanks, security consultants, and trade associations. [MORE>>](#)

National Security/Readiness

The Huffington Post examines an overhaul made by the nation's nuclear power regulators in community emergency planning. Without fanfare, the nation's nuclear power regulators have made changes to exercise and planning requirements for the first time in more than three decades, requiring fewer exercises for major accidents and recommending that fewer people be evacuated right away. Nuclear watchdogs voiced surprise and dismay over the quietly adopted revamp – the first since the program began after Three Mile Island in 1979. [MORE>>](#)

Social Media and Virtual Platforms: The New Situational Awareness for Emergency Management Professionals

The Yale New Haven Health Center for Preparedness and Disaster Response produced a white paper that outlines various social media outlets and how they can be used to create situational awareness among emergency management professionals. Several case studies are presented, including the 2011 Japan earthquake, the 2011 U.S. east coast earthquake and the 2004 Indonesia tsunami. [MORE>>](#)

2012 MI Volunteer Registry Conference and Functional Exercise: Operation Deploy

There is still time to register for the June 29 Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness MI Volunteer Registry Conference and Functional Exercise in Lansing. The goal of this conference is to increase the knowledge, skills and abilities of the MI Volunteer Registry volunteers, system administrators, and partners on current emergency response protocol and capabilities so that participants are better prepared, knowledgeable, and confident in their roles for when the next disaster strikes. Continuing Education credits (5.5) have been approved for nurses, social workers and EMS. Pharmacy credit approval is still pending. Additional information on each of the sessions and interactive hands-on opportunities may be found by going to the conference registration site: <http://MI.TRAIN.org>. Search for the course ID number: 1033234 (Please note that this website is different than the MI Volunteer Registry site and may require you to create a new account on MI-TRAIN prior to registration if you have not visited the site previously). Deadline to register is **June 10th**. Space is limited.

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Research

World's First Peer-Review Video Science Journal

The Journal of Visualized Experiments is the first peer-review journal of its kind that displays content not in written form, but with video. Each video shows how an experiment is carried out which provides a visual representation for other scientists to replicate their procedures. While this type of journal will not replace the text-based journal, it will provide a new element in sharing experiments with scientists being able to actually see how they work. [MORE>>](#)

Implementation Plan for the US National Health Security Strategy (NHSS)

The Department of Health and Human Services released a report that replaces the Interim Implementation Guide. This report outlines the basic implementation approach required to achieve ten strategic objectives over the next four years in the NHSS. Each of the ten objectives has critical implementation activities as well as desired outcomes in the next four years. The goals for the NHSS include building community resilience and strengthening and sustaining health and emergency response systems. [MORE>>](#)

Tools & Resources

Northern New England MMRS Field Ops Guide for iPhone and iPad

The Northern New England Metropolitan Medical Response System has developed an iPad and iPhone application that provides access to the Mobile Medical Unit Field Operations Guide. Although the application is tailored for the Northern New England tri-state regional MMRS, it is largely applicable to other response teams. [MORE>>](#)

FEMA, in Partnership with NOAA, Announces Mobile Wireless Emergency Alerting Capabilities to be Available Nationwide through Participating Carriers

The Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS), which is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, will now be used to deliver Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) about severe weather to wireless carriers for distribution to the public. WEAs will automatically appear on the mobile device screen providing the type and time of the alert as well as any action that should be taken. [MORE>>](#)

Training & Events

Community Preparedness Webinar Series: National Preparedness Month 2012

June 5, 2012, 3:00 PM (Eastern)

The theme for this year's National Preparedness Month is Pledge to Prepare. On June 5 FEMA will host a webinar to help organizations promote preparedness. Get access to new ideas on how you and your community can get involved and [plan events](#) to raise awareness about emergency preparedness and help people learn to protect their homes and families from all hazards. If you have not participated in a previous HSIN webinar and need to register, please click [HERE](#) in order to view this webinar.

Webinar: Prescribing Medications to Individuals Who Are Homeless

June 7, 2012, 2:00–3:30 PM

Prescribing medications to individuals who are homeless is challenging. Factors that complicate prescribing include lack of trust in the provider; being on the street without shelter; issues of theft and loss of medications; frequent relocation; mental illness, substance abuse, or other health issues; lack of outreach activities and resources; and lack of family and social support. This webinar will address strategies to overcome these factors. Topics of engaging homeless cli-

ents in treatment, helping people to feel empowered in decision-making regarding taking medication, assisting people to adhere to medication regimes, and maintaining long-standing relationships with patients will be outlined. Case studies illustrating teaching points will be emphasized. To Register, click [HERE](#)

Public Health Law for Medical Countermeasure Distribution and Dispensing

June 13, 2012, 1:00-2:00 PM (Eastern)

This webinar will explore some of the new and existing legal considerations related to medical countermeasures response (MCM). The Public Health Law Program of the CDC will discuss legal-centered tools that SNS planners can use in planning for an MCM distribution and dispensing campaign.

Audience: State and local SNS and preparedness planners, public health law professionals, public information officers, public health professionals, public health pharmacists, Cities Readiness Initiative coordinators, emergency preparedness managers, closed point of dispensing partners, and others who may be involved in an MCM response.

Registration is not required. Attendees may log in on the scheduled date and time. Microsoft® Live Meeting: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join>
Conference number: RW8182159

Audience passcode: 498558.

To listen to the audio portion, call 1-888-790-4503 and enter participant passcode 498558 (limited to the first 350).

Public Health Preparedness at NACCHO Annual 2012

Navigating the Currents: Positioning Local Health Departments for the Future. Rapidly declining budgets and an equally declining public health workforce have resulted in local health departments needing to face a sobering fact: having to "do less with less." NACCHO Annual 2012 will feature a track called "Building a Disaster Resilient Community: Sustainable Approaches to Planning, Response, and Recovery for Public Health Emergencies," which will address this very issue. The sessions will explore the use of innovative tools, resources, and practical applications that local health departments have implemented to build and sustain public health preparedness and to ensure community resilience in the face of overwhelming fiscal and operational challenges. Click [HERE](#) for more information on these and other NACCHO Annual tracks.

Integrated Capstone Event Expands Training for Responders (free subscription required)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) recently combined three courses into an Integrated Capstone Event (ICE). This exercise gave students the opportunity to experience the full impact of a mass-casualty incident. [MORE>>](#)



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